Extremities Worksheet

Madelyn Schroeder

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

*Extremities opens* in September in a run-down farmhouse in New Jersey. The story is set in the present. The play begins with only Marjorie on stage, pursuing a wasp within the farmhouse.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

The intrusion is the arrival of Raul, “looking” for someone named Joe, with Marjorie alone in the house.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

This is the day that Raul decides to enter the home, with Marjorie alone in the house.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Marjorie murder Raul and will Terry and Patricia report her to the police?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

1st type of exposition, known by all: Marjorie is hurt and upset.

2nd type of exposition, known by one: that Marjorie was actually raped by Raul.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The most theatrical moment in the play is the last scene, as Raul confesses all his crimes, and Marjorie ultimately decides to spare his life, providing the final resolution to the play.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Rape

Trust

Vengeance

Rage

Justice vs. injustice

Justified murder

Humans’ animalistic nature

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Marjorie wants to kill Raul because he raped her, but Terry and Patricia keep her from doing so.

Raul wants to escape his crimes and actions, but Marjorie keeps him from doing so.

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

The image of the wasp is the most prominent, as it is symbolic of Raul’s rape. The wasp disrupts Marjorie, hurts her with its sting, but leaves no stinger similarly to how Raul left no evidence to convict him of the rape. The action of stinging is also a striking image and very representative of the rape, especially with its forceful and painful nature.

The title of the play is a reference to the last scene when Marjorie threatens to remove Raul’s “extremities,” further emphasizing the rage and violence on which the play centers.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

The relationship between Raul and his family is unclear as he constantly seems to alter his story, but it is clear that his family life is not ideal.

Each woman in the house acts as a sister to one another, forming a familial bond and exploring the idea of family as being more than a blood relation.